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HOUSE BILL 1665 By
Brooks (Shelby)

SENATE BILL 1860
By Ford J

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 49, Chapter 1, Part 1 and Title 49, Chapter 1, Part 6, relative to certain schools placed on notice or probation status.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. The title of this act is, and may be cited as, the "Inner City Educational Enhancement Pilot Project Act of 2003".

SECTION 2. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-1-602, is amended by adding the following language as a new, appropriately designated subsection:

(h)

(1) Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, the municipal school system, having the greatest number of schools placed on notice or probation status pursuant to this section, may establish an inner city educational enhancement pilot project in accordance with the requirements of this subsection; provided, however, no such pilot project shall be established by the local education agency without advance approval by the municipal legislative body.

(2) Any such inner city educational enhancement pilot project shall consist of after-school programs at all or a significant portion of the LEA's schools placed on notice or probation status. The pilot project may also include before-school, Saturday, or summer programs at such schools. Pilot project programs and services shall include, but need not be limited to, the following:

- (A) Reading skills development and enhancement;
- (B) Math and science skills development and enhancement;
- (C) Computer literacy and skills development;
- (D) Tutoring and homework supervision and assistance;
- (E) Individualized assessment and remedial instruction;
- (F) Academic mentoring; and
- (G) Life experiences enrichment opportunities.

(3) Programs and services shall be principally provided by qualified volunteers who are retired teachers, university professors, law enforcement officers, armed forces veterans, or public employees. At the discretion of the municipal legislative body, the municipality may offer incentive grants to such volunteers. The amount of any such incentive grants shall vary according to the number of hours actually donated; provided, however, in any given year, no volunteer shall receive incentive grants totaling more than an amount that equals one half of the municipal real property tax previously paid by the volunteer on such person's principal place of residence for the most recently concluded tax year. Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, receipt of any such incentive grant shall not affect, reduce, suspend, or in any other way impair the volunteer's status or benefits level within any retirement program operated by or on behalf of the state or any unit of local government within the state.

(4) The department of education and the office of education accountability shall jointly monitor the efficiency and effectiveness of any pilot project established pursuant to the provisions of this subsection. On or before January 15, 2004, and each year thereafter, a joint report of findings and recommendations shall be filed with each member of the education oversight committee, the education committee of the senate, and the education committee of the house of representatives.

SECTION 3. If any provision of this act or the application thereof to any person or circumstance is held invalid, such invalidity shall not affect other provisions or applications of the act which can be given effect without the invalid provision or application, and to that end the provisions of this act are declared to be severable.

SECTION 4. This act shall take effect July 1, 2003, the public welfare requiring it.